

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, the Draftsperson objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84 for containing erasures, overwritings, interlineations, and markings. Applicant hereby encloses a Letter to Official Draftsman enclosing Formal Drawings.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-30 and 32-53 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,215,656 issued to Sean P. O'Neal et al. (hereinafter "O'Neal et al."). Applicants submit a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.131 stating that the conception and reduction to practice was completed prior to the filing date of O'Neal et al. As a result, Applicants believe that O'Neal et al. is no longer a proper reference. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and allow Claim 1-4, 6-18, 20-30 and 32-53.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 5, 19 and 31 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neal et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,583 issued to Timothy G. Gilbert (hereafter "Gilbert"). Applicants expressly traverse to the Examiner's comments about Gilbert. Claim 5, 19, and 31 are dependent directly or indirectly from independent Claims 1, 13, and 27, respectively. Since Applicants have submitted a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.131 stating that the conception and reduction to practice was completed prior to the filing date of O'Neal et al., Claims 1, 13, and 27 are now allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection and allow Claim 5, 19 and 31.

III. CONCLUSION

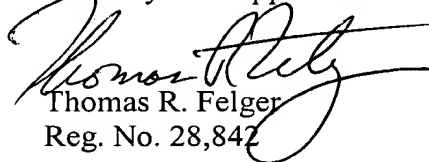
Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of Claims 1-53 as amended. An

executed Revocation of Attorney and Appointment of New Attorneys for Non-Provisional Application, with Certificate Under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is attached hereto.

A Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and § 1.17(a)(1) and a check in the amount of \$110.00 to cover the cost for the extension for response within the first month is enclosed. Applicants do not believe any additional fee is due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants


Thomas R. Felger
Reg. No. 28,842

Date: July 15, 2002

Correspondence Address:
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana
Houston, Texas 77002-4992
512.322.2599
512.322.8305 (Fax)